

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 01783 061116Z

13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 AID-20 /153 W

----- 046786

R 061030Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3395

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL DOUALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, EGEN, EK

SUBJECT: EQUATORIAL GUINEA DOMESTIC SITUATION

REF: YAOUNDE 704

1. SUMMARY: VISIT TO MALABO BY DCM FRIEDMAN AND CONSUL CLARKE FOUND A FEW RUMORS OF CABINET-LEVEL CHANGES, BUT OTHERWISE POLITICAL SITUATION APPEARS QUIESCENT. WHILE SOME SHOPS DISPLAY APPARENTLY NEW CHINESE CONSUMER GOODS, THERE IS GENERAL DEARTH OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS.

2. YAOUNDE DCM FRIEDMAN AND DOUALA CONSUL CLARKE VISITED MALABO MAY 23-25 AND FOUND SITUATION LITTLE CHANGED SINCE MOST RECENT VISIT IN FEBRUARY. FOREIGN DIPLOMATS SEEM LESS CONCERNED ABOUT CUBAN ACTIVITIES, AND SOME FEEL THAT RUSSIANS HAVE BEGUN TO BACK OFF FROM EARLIER PLANS TO ESTABLISH FISHING BASE AT LUBE.

3. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT WAS IN MALABO DURING OFFICER'S VISIT,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 YAOUND 01783 061116Z

NO SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES APPEARED TO BE IN FORCE. WORK

IS PROCEEDING, HOWEVER, TOWARD COMPLETION OF WALL AROUND 12 CITY-BLOCK "PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY ZONE". DESPITE REQUEST FROM VISITORS, PROTOCOL OFFICE DID NOT RESPOND WITH ANY APPOINTMENTS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

4. ACCORDING TO UNSUBSTANTIATED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY

SPANISH AND FRENCH SOURCES, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT PRESIDENT MACIAS HAS INTRODUCED A NEW TOP-LEVEL GOVERN-

MENTAL CHANGES SINCE NEW CABINET ANNOUNCED 2 MARCH (SEE REFTEL). NEW VICE PRESIDENT EYEGUE, NOW RESIDENT IN MALABO, REPORTEDLY IS TO BE GIVEN FINANCE PORTFOLIO AS WELL. MAXIMILIANO MICHA, FORMER SUB-DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY, IS SAID TO BE THE NEW GOVERNOR FOR RIO MUNI REPLACING EYEGUE. FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER MASIE, WHOSE SUDDEN DESCENT TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH WAS THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF THE MARCH 2 CHANGE, IS REPORTED TO BE ILL AND TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN TITLE OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SPECIAL FUNCTIONS.

5. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES INDICATE THAT CURRENT MINISTERIAL TEAM REPRESENTS LITTLE CHANGE FROM THE PRE-MARCH ONE. PRESIDENT MACIAS GUARDS ALL DECISION-MAKING FOR HIMSELF. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT IS BELIEVED PERSONALLY HONEST, HE TURNS A BLIND EYE TO HIGH-LIVING AND PROFITEERING OF OTHER HIGH GOVERNMENT FIGURES. MINISTERS ARE GIVEN FIRST PREFERENCE TO ANY CONSUMER GOODS THAT COME ONTO THE MARKET, AND CABINET MEMBERS CORNER THE MARKET ON SOME GOODS IN ORDER TO RESELL THEM AT EXORBITANT PRICES.

6. ACCORDING TO THE SPANISH, NO IMPORT LICENSES HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN SIX MONTHS, OTHER THAN FOR CIGARETTES, WHISKEY AND COGNAC, NECESSARY TO APPEASE NATIONAL GUARD. IN MEANTIME, THERE NO MILK, COFFEE, TEA, SUGAR, SALT, FISH, ETC. SOME MEAT, A FEW LOCAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, AND BREAD MADE WITH RANCID FLOUR ARE ONLY FOOD PRODUCTS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO VISITORS. SEVERAL SOURCES REPORT GOEG SITTING ON \$20-26 MILLION HARD CURRENCY IN SWISS BANK AT LOW INTEREST RATE, BUT STEADFASTLY UNWILLING USE FUNDS FOR NECESSARY FOOD IMPORTS. HOW THE AVERAGE GUINEANS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 YAOUND 01783 061116Z

SURVIVE IS SUBJECT OF FREQUENT DISCUSSION AMONG DIPLOMATIC COLONY. MOST FEEL THAT GUINEANS SURVIVE ON MANIOC, OTHER HOME-RAISED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, AND A FULL PLATE OF PATIENCE.

7. SEPTELS FOLLOW ON SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES, EG-SPANISH RELATIONS, EG-GABON RELATIONS.  
MOORE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PRESIDENT, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** smithrj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974YAOUND01783  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740146-0392, D740144-0450  
**From:** YAOUNDE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740667/aaaacfrf.tel  
**Line Count:** 115  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** YAOUNDE 704  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** smithrj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by smithrj>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EQUATORIAL GUINEA DOMESTIC SITUATION  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, EGEN, EK, (MACIAS NGUEMA, FRANCISCO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005